

# Important Coins of the Islamic World

## To be sold by auction at:

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## Day of Sale:

Monday 22 April 2013  
at 2.00 pm

## Public viewing:

45 Maddox Street, London W1S 2PE

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Wednesday 17 April | 10.00 am to 4.30 pm |
| Thursday 18 April  | 10.00 am to 4.30 pm |
| Friday 19 April    | 10.00 am to 4.30 pm |

Or by previous appointment.

## Catalogue no. 63

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## Enquiries:

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## Cover illustrations:

Lots 6, 7 and 8 (*front*); lot 54 (*back*); lots 10-37 (*inside front and back covers*)

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**Sterling Cash.** Subject to statutory limits.

## Order of Sale

**Monday 22 April 2013**

### **Starting at 2.00 pm**

|                                                         |      |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------|---------|
| Arab-Sasanian and Arab-Latin ( <i>see also lot 39</i> ) | lots | 1-5     |
| Arab-Byzantine Dinars                                   | lots | 6-7     |
| An Umayyad 'Year 77' Dinar and Set                      | lots | 8-9     |
| Umayyad and Revolutionary Period Dirhams                | lots | 10-38   |
| Arab Bukhara                                            | lot  | 39      |
| Abbasid                                                 | lots | 40-56   |
| Spanish Umayyad                                         | lots | 57-65   |
| Other Spanish and North Africa                          | lots | 66-67   |
| Fatimid and Mirdasid                                    | lots | 68-105  |
| Mamluk                                                  | lots | 106-109 |
| Qarmatid                                                | lot  | 110     |
| Buwayhids in 'Uman                                      | lot  | 111     |
| Seljuqs of Rum                                          | lots | 112-114 |
| Ottoman                                                 | lots | 115-125 |
| Pre-Mongol Iran                                         | lots | 126-131 |
| Ilkhanid                                                | lots | 132-133 |
| Qajar                                                   | lot  | 134     |

*The condition of most of the coins in this catalogue is described by the use of conventional numismatic terms. For an explanation of these expressions, or for any further information, clients are invited to contact us directly.*



1

**ARAB-SASANIAN, AL-HAKAM B. ABI AL-'AS**

**Drachm, ANWAT (uncertain location, in Kirman) or HWNZYT (Hunzit) 57h**

OBVERSE: In margin: *bismillah al-Hakam*  
 WEIGHT: 2.98g  
 REFERENCE: SCC 62  
 CONDITION: *Ragged edge and also clipped, good fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200

NOTE: The mint-name on this rare coin has traditionally been read as ANWAT, and because this is also found as a suffix to the KRMAN mint-signature it has generally been taken to refer to an unknown location somewhere in Kirman province. More recently, however, Shams Eshragh suggested the alternative reading HWNZYT, 'Hunzit'.



2

**ARAB-SASANIAN, AL-HAKAM B. ABI AL-'AS**

**Drachm, PYR (uncertain location, possibly in Kirman) 58h**

OBVERSE: In margin: *bismillah al-Hakam*  
 WEIGHT: 4.01g  
 REFERENCE: SICA I, p.17, note 73  
 CONDITION: *Light graffiti on reverse, good very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



3

**ARAB-SASANIAN, HUMRAN B. ABAN**

**Drachm, ART (Ardashir Khurra) 72h**

OBVERSE: In margin, starting in second quadrant: *bismillah – Humran bin Aban*  
 WEIGHT: 3.26g  
 REFERENCES: SICA I, 31; SCC 135  
 CONDITION: *Clipped, very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



4

**ARAB-ARMENIAN, MUHAMMAD B. MARWAN**

**Drachm, mint-letter AY (possibly struck in Dabil circa 75-78h)**

OBVERSE: Bust of Khusraw II to right, Pahlawi MHMT ('Muhammad') before; Arabic *wafin* in margin  
 REVERSE: Fire-altar with attendants, pellet to either side of base, date (blundered; probably intended for ARB '4') to left, mint AY to right  
 WEIGHT: 3.19g  
 REFERENCE: Sears 9ff  
 CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine*  
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



5

**ARAB-LATIN COINAGE, TEMP. AL-WALID I (86-96h)**

**Gold Solidus, Spain, Indiction XII = 93h**

OBVERSE: Around central eight-pointed star: ...]NNdSdSdSSTHIC[...  
 REVERSE: In field: INdC XII  
 In margin: HCISLDFR [...] II  
 WEIGHT: 4.10g  
 REFERENCE: Balaguer 26-27  
 CONDITION: *Reverse off-centre, very fine and rare*  
 ESTIMATE: £3,000-4,000

NOTE: Indiction XII appears to be much the rarest date for this coinage. Balaguer lists just two specimens from this year, compared with five for year X and more than twenty for year XI.

## TWO EXTREMELY RARE EARLY ARAB DINARS

The two pieces offered here are some of the very first Arab gold coins ever struck.

After the Muslims took control of the former Byzantine provinces of Syria, Jordan and Egypt, the local population continued to use the Byzantine coins, mostly gold solidi and copper folles, which were then in circulation. As the existing coinage stock began to dwindle it became necessary for the Muslims to maintain it by issuing coins of their own. To ensure that these new coins were acceptable to the local population they were deliberately designed to resemble existing Byzantine solidi as far as other considerations would allow. Thus the new coins were carefully de-Christianized, to the extent that all crosses and the *chi-rho* monogram were modified or removed from the designs, but in other respects they follow their prototypes very closely.

Like most standard Byzantine solidi these Arab-Byzantine issues are undated but they certainly pre-date the first issues of Islamic dinars with Arabic inscriptions, thought to have begun in 72h. Miles suggested a likely date range between 60-72h, and Bates notes that a specimen in the ANS 'can plausibly be attributed to Syria before 692, probably before 680' (=60h) on the basis of hoard evidence. The extreme rarity of these fascinating transitional coins suggests that they were only ever issued in small quantities, possibly by local governors and commanders rather than as an official coinage. Most were doubtless melted in the recall of all pre-Reform gold when the first truly Islamic dinars were struck in 77h (see lot 8).



#6

### ARAB-BYZANTINE

#### Gold Solidus, undated (possibly circa 60-72h)

OBVERSE: DN FOCAS – PEP AVC, draped and cuirassed bust facing, wearing crown, surmounted by plain vertical diadem and without *pendilia*, and holding globe surmounted by plain shaft  
 REVERSE: VICTOR- - A AVCG I, angel standing facing holding long staff with looped top and globe surmounted by plain shaft; *in ex.*, CONOB  
 WEIGHT: 4.45g  
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 1; Miles, *EAGC* p.207, 1;  
 CONDITION: *Minor marks, crudely struck but almost extremely fine, excessively rare and historically important*  
 ESTIMATE: £50,000-80,000



7

### ARAB-BYZANTINE

#### Gold solidus, undated (possibly circa 60-72h)

OBVERSE: ΔΔΝΝΗCΡCΛΙ[...], facing busts of Heraclius (on left) and Heraclius Constantine (on right), each wearing chlamys and simple crown, no crosses on crowns and none in field between them  
 REVERSE: VICTORIA AVCZ, pole surmounted by cross-bar on three steps, I – B in field to either side, *in ex.*, CONOB  
 WEIGHT: 4.20g  
 REFERENCE: cf Bernardi 2 (obverse) / 4 (reverse); cf Miles, *EAGC* p.208, 3 (obverse) / p.209, 4 (reverse)  
 CONDITION: *Areas of weak striking on both sides, scrapes on reverse and light scratches on obverse, otherwise with minimal wear from circulation and so extremely fine for issue, extremely rare and historically important*  
 ESTIMATE: £40,000-60,000

NOTE: This appears to be an unpublished variety for these extremely rare transitional pieces. Other specimens with the youthful portraits of Heraclius and his son on the obverse lack the indictional year I - B; this is normally found on solidi showing the three standing figures of Heraclius and his two sons (as Bernardi 4). The association of this indictional year 12 with an unrelated obverse type supports Bates's view that the engravers 'did not understand or care about the significance of these numbers and put them on their imitations merely because there were numbers on the prototype.'



Lot 6



Lot 7



Lot 8



*"The reason 'Abd al-Malik struck dinars and dirhams of this type is because Khalid b. Yazid said to him, "Prince of the Believers, learned men...say that those princes who have lived the longest are those who have honoured the name of God on the coinage." So the caliph decided to strike coins and established a coinage of Islamic type. It is also said that 'Abd al-Malik put at the head of a letter he was writing to the Byzantine emperor, "Say: God is One," and mentioned the Prophet's name in the wording of the date. This displeased the Byzantine emperor, who replied, "If you do not stop doing this, we will name your Prophet on our solidi in a manner which you will not find pleasing." This distressed 'Abd al-Malik, who consulted his companions. Khalid b. Yazid advised him to strike coins appropriate to Islam, and to stop using the Byzantine solidi. And so he did.'*

(Al-Maqrizi, *Kitab shudhur al-'uqud fi dhikr al-nuqud*, cited in Eustache, p. 105).

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)**  
**Dinar, no mint name, 77h**



|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OBVERSE:    | In margin, starting at 3.00: <i>Muhammad rasul Allah arsulahu bi'l-huda wa din al-haqq li-yuzhirahu 'ala al-din kullihi</i><br>In field: <i>la ilaha illa   Allah wahdahu   la sharik lahu</i> |
| REVERSE:    | In margin, starting at 1.30: <i>Bismillah duriba hadha al-dinar fi sanat saba' wa saba'in</i><br>In field: <i>Allah ahad Allah   al-samad lam yalidu   wa lam yuladu</i>                       |
| WEIGHT:     | 4.29g                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| REFERENCES: | Walker 186; cf Morton and Eden auction 10, 23 November 2004, lot 349, <i>same reverse die</i>                                                                                                  |
| CONDITION:  | <i>Small scrape on obverse between margin and third line of field, light graffiti on reverse, otherwise almost extremely fine, extremely rare and of exceptional historical importance</i>     |
| ESTIMATE:   | £280,000-320,000                                                                                                                                                                               |
| NOTE:       | THE FIRST PURELY ISLAMIC GOLD COIN                                                                                                                                                             |

The introduction of a unified Islamic gold coinage under 'Abd al-Malik b. Marwan has rightly been seen as a landmark in the early history of Islam. It played an important role in the establishment of Islamic government and institutions under the Umayyads and represents the unifying power of Islam both in its economic and monetary function and, symbolically, in its legends and design.

The Arab conquests in the first decades of Islam remain unparalleled in terms of their rapidity, scope and longevity. The Sasanian kingdom, centred on present-day Iran and Iraq, was quickly overthrown and the last king, Yazdgird III, was killed in 31h/651-652. Meanwhile, Arab forces were equally vigorous in their campaigns against the Byzantine empire in the West. Syria and Jordan were taken in 15h/636 and the rich province of Egypt followed five years later. Recognising that preserving existing arrangements would keep the newly-conquered territories prosperous and peaceful, the victorious Muslims initially made relatively few changes to the administrative and financial institutions they inherited. But this soon became less appropriate for an empire with Arabic as the dominant language and which was to be run according to Islamic principles.

Coinage, so vital for paying troops and collecting tax revenues, was a crucial part of this process. In the former Sasanian lands, gold and copper coins were only issued in comparatively small quantities and the great bulk of the coinage was made up of silver drachms: broad, thin coins with the Sasanian monarch's head and a Zoroastrian fire-altar on the reverse. However Syria, Jordan and Egypt had been part of the Byzantine currency system, based on gold dinars and copper folles and in which silver had played only a minor role. At first, the Muslims made only minor changes to the prevailing coinage types, which no doubt helped to reassure the populace and maintain stability. But the unification of these two different 'currency zones' under Islam meant that these regional differences were steadily disappearing.

'Abd al-Malik seems to have begun a series of reforms of the precious metal coinage in 72h, centred on the Umayyad capital, Damascus. For the gold coinage, this saw the production of two further issues imitating Byzantine solidi, one copying a common type of Heraclius, Heraclius Constantine and Heraclonas (undated, probably issued between 72-74h), and the other depicting the standing figure of the caliph on the obverse and a modified cross-on-steps on the reverse (dated 74-77h). Both types carried legends in Arabic, unlike the much closer adaptations of dinars produced previously (see lots 6 and 7), but would still have been immediately recognisable as adaptations of Byzantine types rather than Islamic innovations.

The introduction of the first purely Islamic gold coin – the 'year 77' dinar as offered here – represents a complete break with this conservative approach. Not only were the new coins purely epigraphic, with religious inscriptions replacing the modified crosses and imperial images found on previous gold issues, but even the weight was changed from that of the Byzantine solidus to the Arabic *mithqal* (about 4.25g). The quotations from the Qur'an chosen for these coins emphasise the oneness of God, and this is generally considered to be a rebuttal to the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. The result was a coin of striking and beautiful simplicity which was obviously and uncompromisingly Islamic, and which was to become the basis of a stable gold coinage whose weight and fineness was carefully maintained in accordance with Qur'anic precepts. The type lasted unchanged until the fall of the Umayyad caliphate in 132h, and it is a remarkable tribute to the enduring power of 'Abd al-Malik's design that three of the four inscriptions used on these first Islamic dinars are also found on the last coins of the Abbasids issued nearly six centuries later.



9  
**UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN to HISHAM II**  
**A set of 55 post-Reform Umayyad dinars, all with no mint-name, comprising an example of each year from 78h to 132h inclusive**

ESTIMATE: £80,000-100,000

NOTE: Assembling a complete set of mintless Umayyad dinars has long been viewed as one of the great challenges in collecting and studying Islamic coins. The coins offered here have been carefully chosen for their excellent condition and the overall quality of this set is very high. Particular attention is drawn to the fine examples of the very rare dinars of 107h and 127h.

The coins are listed below, giving individual weights, references and the condition of each piece:

|            |       |            |                                                                |
|------------|-------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>78h</b> | 4.27g | Walker 187 | <i>Extremely fine</i>                                          |
| <b>79h</b> | 4.29g | Walker 189 | <i>Good extremely fine</i>                                     |
| <b>80h</b> | 4.26g | Walker 190 | <i>Extremely fine</i>                                          |
| <b>81h</b> | 4.23g | Walker 191 | <i>Almost extremely fine</i>                                   |
| <b>82h</b> | 4.30g | Walker 192 | <i>Good extremely fine</i>                                     |
| <b>83h</b> | 4.24g | Walker 193 | <i>About uncirculated</i>                                      |
| <b>84h</b> | 4.25g | Walker 194 | <i>Very light graffiti, extremely fine</i>                     |
| <b>85h</b> | 4.32g | Walker 196 | <i>Good extremely fine</i>                                     |
| <b>86h</b> | 4.27g | Walker 197 | <i>About uncirculated and lustrous</i>                         |
| <b>87h</b> | 4.25g | Walker 198 | <i>Good extremely fine</i>                                     |
| <b>88h</b> | 4.29g | Walker 199 | <i>About uncirculated</i>                                      |
| <b>89h</b> | 4.33g | Walker 200 | <i>Almost extremely fine</i>                                   |
| <b>90h</b> | 4.25g | Walker 201 | <i>Light graffiti, otherwise almost as struck and lustrous</i> |
| <b>91h</b> | 4.25g | Walker 202 | <i>Extremely fine</i>                                          |
| <b>92h</b> | 4.24g | Walker 204 | <i>Extremely fine</i>                                          |



|             |       |            |                                                               |
|-------------|-------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>93h</b>  | 4.28g | Walker 205 | <i>Extremely fine, die rust on obverse</i>                    |
| <b>94h</b>  | 4.23g | Walker 207 | <i>Extremely fine</i>                                         |
| <b>95h</b>  | 4.26g | Walker 209 | <i>Almost uncirculated</i>                                    |
| <b>96h</b>  | 4.26g | Walker 210 | <i>Good extremely fine</i>                                    |
| <b>97h</b>  | 4.24g | Walker 212 | <i>Extremely fine</i>                                         |
| <b>98h</b>  | 4.27g | Walker 213 | <i>About extremely fine</i>                                   |
| <b>99h</b>  | 4.14g | Walker 214 | <i>Good very fine</i>                                         |
| <b>100h</b> | 4.26g | Walker 216 | <i>Good very fine</i>                                         |
| <b>101h</b> | 4.26g | Walker 218 | <i>About extremely fine</i>                                   |
| <b>102h</b> | 4.25g | Walker 219 | <i>Good very fine</i>                                         |
| <b>103h</b> | 4.26g | Walker 220 | <i>Almost extremely fine</i>                                  |
| <b>104h</b> | 4.21g | Walker 223 | <i>Graffiti on reverse, good very fine</i>                    |
| <b>105h</b> | 4.24g | Walker 224 | <i>Minor edge marks and light tooling, very fine and rare</i> |
| <b>106h</b> | 4.24g | Walker 225 | <i>Almost extremely fine</i>                                  |
| <b>107h</b> | 4.23g | Walker 227 | <i>Almost extremely fine and very rare</i>                    |
| <b>108h</b> | 4.24g | Walker 228 | <i>Obverse graffiti, extremely fine</i>                       |
| <b>109h</b> | 4.22g | Walker 229 | <i>Extremely fine</i>                                         |
| <b>110h</b> | 4.31g | Walker 230 | <i>Good extremely fine</i>                                    |
| <b>111h</b> | 4.15g | Walker 231 | <i>Good very fine</i>                                         |
| <b>112h</b> | 4.25g | Walker 232 | <i>Extremely fine</i>                                         |



|             |       |            |                                                              |
|-------------|-------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>113h</b> | 4.01g | Walker 233 | <i>Edge smoothed, otherwise almost extremely fine</i>        |
| <b>114h</b> | 4.24g | Walker 234 | <i>Light deposit, extremely fine</i>                         |
| <b>115h</b> | 4.22g | Walker 235 | <i>Good very fine</i>                                        |
| <b>116h</b> | 4.03g | Walker 236 | <i>Clipped, otherwise almost extremely fine</i>              |
| <b>117h</b> | 4.24g | Walker 237 | <i>Scuffed in reverse field, almost extremely fine</i>       |
| <b>118h</b> | 4.23g | Walker 238 | <i>Good very fine</i>                                        |
| <b>119h</b> | 4.25g | Walker 239 | <i>Good very fine</i>                                        |
| <b>120h</b> | 4.22g | Walker 240 | <i>Scattered surface marks, good very fine</i>               |
| <b>121h</b> | 4.26g | Walker 241 | <i>Almost extremely fine</i>                                 |
| <b>122h</b> | 4.25g | Walker 242 | <i>Good extremely fine</i>                                   |
| <b>123h</b> | 4.27g | Walker 243 | <i>Minor marks, about extremely fine</i>                     |
| <b>124h</b> | 4.24g | Walker 244 | <i>About extremely fine</i>                                  |
| <b>125h</b> | 4.25g | Walker 245 | <i>Clipped, a few small scuffs in fields, good very fine</i> |
| <b>126h</b> | 4.25g | Walker 246 | <i>Graffiti on both sides, good very fine</i>                |
| <b>127h</b> | 4.24g | Walker 247 | <i>Almost extremely fine</i>                                 |
| <b>128h</b> | 4.25g | Walker 248 | <i>Almost extremely fine</i>                                 |
| <b>129h</b> | 4.26g | Walker 249 | <i>Light scratches on obverse, almost extremely fine</i>     |
| <b>130h</b> | 4.24g | Walker 250 | <i>Small test mark on edge, almost extremely fine</i>        |
| <b>131h</b> | 4.25g | Walker 251 | <i>Extremely fine</i>                                        |
| <b>132h</b> | 4.11g | Walker 252 | <i>From a ring mount, very fine</i>                          |



10

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)**

**Dirham, no mint name, 79h**

OBVERSE: In border: annulets O O O O O  
 REVERSE: In border: annulets o o o o o  
 In field: *wa* at end of second line  
 WEIGHT: 2.86g  
 REFERENCE: Klat 1  
 CONDITION: *Almost extremely fine, extremely rare and historically important*  
 ESTIMATE: £20,000-30,000

NOTE: After the first purely Islamic gold dinars were issued in 77h (see lot 8), 'Abd al-Malik b. Marwan soon turned his attention to producing a related silver coinage.

The very first examples were struck in 78h at five different mints: Adharbayjan and Armenia in the North, Kufa in southern Iraq, and Shaqq al-Taymara and Jayy (both parts of Isfahan). All are of the highest rarity with fewer than ten 'year 78' dirhams known in total. The reasons why these particular mints should have been the first to strike post-Reform dirhams are not fully understood, but it was probably the result of a combination of local factors rather than an overall central plan.

Production of post-Reform dirhams began in earnest in 79h, with some forty different mints striking the new coinage. Not surprisingly, most of these had previously been striking Arab-Sasanian silver drachms. This had always been a decentralized coinage with dozens of mints active at any one time, and it was an obvious step to include the name of the mint on the new dirhams also. But Damascus, the westernmost of the early dirham mints, was located in the former Byzantine province of Syria where silver coins had been uncommon. Here, the prototype for the silver coinage was not the Arab-Sasanian drachm but the post-Reform gold dinar, which did not need to be explicit about the place of minting because they were struck only in Damascus. This was probably why the very first Damascus dirhams, including the piece offered here, were also struck without a mint-name - perhaps it was to be understood that all dirhams were struck at Damascus unless otherwise stated. If so, this experiment cannot have lasted long as Dimashq 79h dirhams are the most plentiful coins of this date surviving today. An alternative theory is that this extremely rare mintless type may have been a pattern rather than a currency issue.





11

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. SULAYMAN (96-99h)**

**Dirham, Abarqubadh 97h**

WEIGHT: 2.55g  
 REFERENCE: Klat 22  
 CONDITION: *Light graffiti on obverse, very fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £5,000-7,000



12

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. HISHAM (105-125h)**

**Dirham, Ifriqiya 110h**

REVERSE: In border: annulets oo oo oo oo oo  
 WEIGHT: 2.91g  
 REFERENCE: Klat 97.a  
 CONDITION: *Good very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



13

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. MARWAN II (127-132h)**

**Dirham, Ifriqiya 128h**

OBVERSE: In border: annulets O O O O O  
 In field: eight-pointed star below  
 WEIGHT: 2.87g  
 REFERENCE: Klat 110  
 CONDITION: *About extremely fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £3,000-4,000

NOTE: Four examples recorded by Klat. Dirhams from Ifriqiya dated 128h and 129h all bear this distinctive and unusual eight-pointed star in the obverse field.



14

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. MARWAN II (127-132h)**  
**Dirham, Ifriqiya 132h**

OBVERSE: In margin: legend reads *al-dirhar* (sic, for *al-dirham*)  
 REVERSE: In field: first line reads *Allah had* (sic, for *ahad*) *Allah*  
 WEIGHT: 2.72g  
 REFERENCE: Klat 114, *same dies*  
 CONDITION: *Very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £8,000-12,000

NOTE: Four examples recorded by Klat. Almost all dirhams struck in the year 132h, during which the Umayyads were overthrown by the Abbasids, are extremely rare today.



15

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. YAZID II (101-105h)**  
**Dirham, al-Andalus 103h**

OBVERSE: In border: annulets o o o o o  
 REVERSE: In border: annulets o o o o o  
 WEIGHT: 3.01g  
 REFERENCE: Klat 116, *same reverse die*  
 CONDITION: *Some staining on obverse, otherwise almost extremely fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £8,000-12,000

NOTE: This is an extremely rare example of the very first Islamic silver coin struck in Muslim Spain.



16

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. HISHAM (105-125h)**

**Dirham, al-Andalus 111h**

OBVERSE: In border: four concentric annulets

REVERSE: In border: annulets o o o o

WEIGHT: 3.03g

REFERENCE: Klat 124.c, *same reverse die*

CONDITION: *Very fine, rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



17

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. AL-WALID I (86-96h)**

**Dirham, Bizamqubadh 91h**

REVERSE: Small pellet at 6 o'clock on border between field and margin

WEIGHT: 2.87g

REFERENCE: Klat 163

CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine, rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



18

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. AL-WALID I (86-96h)**

**Dirham, Janza 94h**

OBVERSE: In margin: point below *b* of *duriba*; three points below *ha* of *hadha*; point below *bi-* of *bi-Janza*; three points below *alif* and *ra* of *arba'*

REFERENCE: cf Klat 250 (four points below *ha* of *hadha*), *same reverse die*

CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



Lot 19





‡19

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'UMAR (99-101h)**

**Dirham, Jurjan 100h**

**OBVERSE:** Standard type with five small annulets and three concentric circles in margin  
Marginal legend *...duriba hadha al-dirham bi-Jurjan fi sanat...* arranged in square around *kalima*  
**REVERSE:** Standard type. Central point above and slightly to the left of final *d* of *yuladu* in third line of field  
**WEIGHT:** 2.86g  
**CONDITION:** *Slight double-striking on obverse, about extremely fine and of the highest rarity*

**ESTIMATE:** £50,000-80,000

**NOTE:** THE FIRST RECORDED Umayyad DIRHAM FROM THE MINT OF JURJAN

The discovery of a new mint for the post-Reform Umayyad dirham coinage is now a rare event, which can yield important new evidence for our understanding of the numismatic history of the period. In this context the coin of Jurjan offered here is of particular interest.

The province of Jurjan lay at the south-east corner of the Caspian sea. While previously unknown as a mint for Umayyad dirhams, Jurjan (also the name of the chief city of the province) was an active mint in the early centuries of Islam. Almost all coins struck before the mid-third century were copper fulus, but under the 'Alids of Tabaristan, Samanids, Ziyarids and Buwayhids a fairly regular silver coinage was produced. Later the Ilkhanids struck coins in all three metals.

In the year 100h dirham production was heavily centralised at Basra, Kufa and Dimashq. Klat records dirhams from just five other mints, mostly situated either on the frontiers of the Islamic lands or in areas geographically distant from the capital, Damascus. Either of these explanations could equally account for the opening of a dirham mint in Jurjan.

It is also tempting to associate this piece with a parallel issue of post-Reform copper fulus introduced in Iran and the East *circa* 100h. Dated copper and lead fulus were struck in Jurjan fairly regularly from 101h (and possibly earlier, see Album 202); these will have been intended for local circulation while silver dirhams could and did circulate throughout the Islamic lands. Perhaps striking dirhams at Jurjan was an experiment which was quickly abandoned in favour of a base metal coinage designed to meet a local need.



20

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. AL-WALID I (86-96h)**

**Dirham, Harran 87h**

**WEIGHT:** 2.89g  
**REFERENCE:** Klat 275  
**CONDITION:** *About extremely fine*

**ESTIMATE:** £1,500-2,000



21

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)**

**Dirham, Hulwan 81h**

OBVERSE: In margin: unit of date written *ihda* with final long *alif*  
 REVERSE: In field: letter *waw* at beginning of third line  
 WEIGHT: 2.67g  
 REFERENCE: Klat 278 *var.* [unit of date ends with *alif maqsura*]  
 CONDITION: *Cleaned, lightly clipped and on a slightly wavy flan, almost very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £15,000-20,000

NOTE: One example, of a different variety (as noted above), recorded by Klat. This is the earliest known date for the very rare mint of Hulwan.



22

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. AL-WALID I (86-96h)**

**Dirham, Dabil 86h**

WEIGHT: 2.87g  
 REFERENCE: Klat 287  
 CONDITION: *Good very fine, rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



23

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. AL-WALID I (86-96h)**

**Dirham, 'Dashtaq' 96h**

OBVERSE: In margin: point below *b* of *duriba* and two points above *t* of *sitt* in date  
 WEIGHT: 2.53g  
 REFERENCE: Unpublished (cf Klat 340.1 [Dimashq])  
 CONDITION: *Attempted piercing at 8 o'clock on obverse, otherwise very fine and apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000

NOTE: The distinctive calligraphy, coupled with the points placed exactly as on regular Damascus dirhams, surely confirms that 'Dashtaq' is an engraver's error for Dimashq and not a mint in its own right.



24

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. MARWAN II (127-132h)**

**Dirham, Dimashq 129h**

WEIGHT: 2.85g  
 REFERENCE: Klat 373  
 CONDITION: *Slightly granular surfaces, very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000

NOTE: The rarest date for Umayyad dirhams of Damascus, with only three specimens recorded by Klat.



25

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)**

**Dirham, al-Rayy 80h**

WEIGHT: 2.83g  
 REFERENCE: Klat 395  
 CONDITION: *Light graffiti in reverse field, almost extremely fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



26

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)**

**Dirham, al-Rayy 82h**

REVERSE: In field: letter *wa* placed at the end of the second line  
 WEIGHT: 2.11g  
 REFERENCE: cf Klat 397  
 CONDITION: *Some surface corrosion and staining, about fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

NOTE: Two specimens of this date recorded by Klat. Although an ancient piece, the calligraphy and anomalous position of the *wa* at the end of the second line of the reverse field suggest that it may be an unofficial issue of some kind.



27

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. IBRAHIM (126-127h)**

**Dirham, Sijistan 127h**

OBVERSE: In border: seven large annulets  
 WEIGHT: 2.82g  
 REFERENCE: Klat 445  
 CONDITION: *Creased, struck from a rusty reverse die, good fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £4,000-6,000

NOTE: Two examples recorded by Klat.



28

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)**

**Dirham, al-Sus 82h**

OBVERSE: In border: annulets o o o o o  
 REVERSE: In border: annulets o o o o o  
 In field: *wa* at beginning of third line  
 WEIGHT: 2.65g  
 CONDITION: *Some double-striking on obverse, fine to good fine and of the highest rarity*

ESTIMATE: £7,000-10,000

NOTE: A previously unrecorded date for the mint of al-Sus, this coin confirms that dirhams were struck there in each year from 79-83h.



29

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)**

**Dirham, Kirman 79h**

OBVERSE: In border: annulets o o o o o  
 In margin: *bismillah duriba hadha l-dirham bi-Kirman fi sanat tisa' wa saba'in* (i.e. without the initial *alif* of *al-dirham*)  
 REVERSE: In field: *wa* at end of second line  
 WEIGHT: 2.51g  
 CONDITION: *Centres weakly struck on both sides, crazed surfaces and several small flan splits at edge, fine overall with clear mint and date and of the highest rarity*

ESTIMATE: £10,000-15,000

NOTE: This appears to be the earliest known dirham from the important post-Reform mint of Kirman, struck eleven years before the first date recorded by Klat (this being 90h, coin 522.1).



30

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)**

**Dirham, Mah al-Basra 79h**

WEIGHT: 2.74g

REFERENCE: Klat 550

CONDITION: *Has been cleaned, patch of chloride deposit remaining between 1 o'clock and 3 o'clock in obverse margin, very fine to good very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



31

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. HISHAM (105-125h)**

**Dirham, al-Mubarak 108h**

OBVERSE: Chain border; two concentric circles instead of three

REVERSE: Dotted border (instead of usual annulets)

WEIGHT: 2.87g

REFERENCE: Klat 571.a, citing a single specimen from the same pair of dies

CONDITION: *Good very fine and extremely rare, apparently the second published example*

ESTIMATE: £3,000-4,000

PROVENANCE: Baldwin's Islamic Coin Auction 10, 20 July 2005, lot 45 (also illustrated on front cover of catalogue)

NOTE: Virtually all Umayyad dirhams conform to a standard pattern with annulets in the margin on both sides: normally five on the obverse (but with increasing variation from about 103h onwards) and almost invariably five on the reverse. This distinctive chain border on the obverse and dotted border on the reverse are only found on coins of al-Mubarak ('the blessed place', generally believed to be a title referring to the great city of Balkh) dated 107h and 108; they are otherwise unparalleled on the Umayyad silver coinage.



32

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. YAZID II (101-105h)**

**Dirham, Marw 102h**

OBVERSE: In margin: pellet after *fī* of *fī sanat*  
In field: pellet below *shin* of *sharik* in third line

WEIGHT: 2.84g

REFERENCE: Klat 599

CONDITION: *Some staining and excess metal on reverse, otherwise good very fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

NOTE: Four examples recorded by Klat; the date was unknown to Walker.



Lot 33





‡33

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)**

**Dirham, Narmashir 80h**

OBVERSE: Standard type with five small annulets and three concentric circles in margin.  
Marginal legend ...*duriba hadha al-dirham bi-Narmashir fi sanat...*  
REVERSE: In field: letter *wa* at beginning of third line  
WEIGHT: 2.52g  
REFERENCE: SCC 253; Klat -  
CONDITION: *Obverse lightly cleaned (but some deposit remaining), very fine to good very fine and of the highest rarity*  
ESTIMATE: £40,000-60,000

NOTE: This appears to be only the second recorded Umayyad dirham from Narmashir (the other, struck in the same year but from different dies, was published by Shams Eshragh in 2010).

Narmashir was located in the province of Kirman. It was a fairly prolific mint for Arab-Sasanian drachms where it appears both as the independent mint-name NAR and also in the form KRMAN-NAR (Kirman - Narmashir). Arab-Sasanian issues are known dated 78h, and it seems that Narmashir was another Arab-Sasanian mint which survived briefly to strike a small number of post-Reform dirhams in the first few years after the new coins were introduced. Interestingly, the mint reopened briefly in 83h, when extremely rare drachms are known in the name of 'Amr b. Laqit, governor of the rebel 'Abd al-Rahman b. Muhammad.



34

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)**

**Dirham, Nahr Tira 83h**

WEIGHT: 2.86g  
REFERENCE: Klat 640  
CONDITION: *Very fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000

NOTE: Three examples recorded by Klat.



35

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. AL-WALID I (86-96h)**

**Dirham, Nahr Tira 91h**

WEIGHT: 2.71g  
REFERENCE: Klat 642  
CONDITION: *Almost very fine and a very rare date for the mint*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000

NOTE: Four examples recorded by Klat; the date was unknown to Walker.



36

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN or AL-WALID I**  
**Dirham, Wasit '73h'**

OBVERSE: In margin: decade of date written *sin-'ayn-ya-nun* (sic, either for *saba'in* or *tisa'in*)  
 WEIGHT: 2.59g  
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and unusual*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500

NOTE: The calligraphy on the obverse is executed to a high standard, while the reverse, although still fully literate, is somewhat coarser in style. It seems that the coin is likely to be an unofficial issue of some kind, possibly from North Africa. It is curious that the only obvious spelling error should be in the date, particularly since this produces an 'impossible' reading for the type. Could this be a deliberate attempt to conceal when, and possibly by whom, the piece was produced?

Umayyad dirhams with similar 'impossible' dates in the 70's are also known from other mints, including an example of 'Marw 74h' sold in these rooms (Important Coins of the Islamic World, 23 April 2012, lot 61).



37

**UMAYYAD, TEMP. SULAYMAN (96-99h)**  
**Dirham, Wasit 97h**

OBVERSE: without annulets in margin  
 WEIGHT: 2.86g  
 REFERENCE: Klat 692.a, *same obverse die*  
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and toned, an extremely rare variety*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500

NOTE: Virtually all Umayyad dirhams struck before 100h conform to a standard pattern of five small, evenly-spaced annulets in the obverse and reverse margins, and their absence in this case is exceptional. It is conceivable that the engraver simply forgot to add them to the die, although the discovery of a different obverse die for a Wasit 97h dirham which similarly lacked annulets would surely disprove this. But the fact that two annulet patterns are known for dirhams of Wasit struck in 98h and 99h shows that the mint was no longer using five simple annulets as a matter of course, and this piece may have been deliberately struck without obverse annulets as part of this process.

For a more detailed consideration of how changes in annulet patterns can sometimes be linked to changes of provincial governor, see Bates, M.L. and DeShazo, A.S., 'The Umayyad Governors of al-'Iraq and the Changing Annulet Patterns on their Dirhams,' *Numismatic Chronicle*, Seventh Series, Vol. 14 (1974), pp. 110-118.



38

**REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD, TEMP. AL-HASAN B. MU'AWIYA**  
**Dirham, al-Rayy 129h**

WEIGHT: 2.63g  
 REFERENCES: Klat 409; Wurtzel 10; Miles, *Rayy* 36A  
 CONDITION: *Cleaned, pitted surfaces where corrosion has been removed, good fine to almost very fine, very rare*  
 ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200



39

**ARAB-BUKHARAN, TEMP. HARUN AL-RASHID, GOVERNOR 'ALI**  
**Silver *Muhammadiya* drachm, without mint or date**

OBVERSE: Degraded Sasanian bust right  
 Behind head: *Muhammadiya* (the term for the fine silver issue of this type)  
 Beneath bust: *Mimma amara bihi 'Ali*  
 Before face: Sogdian legend  
 REVERSE: Degraded fire-altar and attendants  
 WEIGHT: 2.10g  
 REFERENCES: Album '96E'; Zeno 117759, *this piece*  
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and of the highest rarity*  
 ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000

NOTE: This extremely rare coin belongs to a group which constitutes some of the very last Islamic coins to follow pre-Islamic prototypes.

The design ultimately derives from a Sasanian drachm of Varhran V, issued in the early fifth century A.D., which was imitated on coins struck at Bukhara for centuries before the coming of Islam. These pre-Islamic rulers used the title *Bukharkhudat*.

Much as in Sijistan, where the Islamic coinage of the 8th century Hijri alternated between regular, post-Reform Umayyad and Abbasid dirhams and debased Arab-Sasanian drachms, Bukhara also seems to have continued to strike Islamicized Bukharkhudat drachms alongside more conventional Islamic coins. In both cases the explanation seems to have been a combination of geographical remoteness and an unwillingness among the local population to accept the new coinage, with which they may well still have been unfamiliar.

The governor cited on this coin has been identified as 'Ali b. 'Isa b. Mahan, governor of Khurasan under Harun al-Rashid until his dismissal in 192h.



40

**ABBASID, AL-RASHID (170-193h)**

**Dinar, no mint name (Baghdad) 171h**

REVERSE: In field: *Muhammad rasul Allah | mimma amr bihi 'Abdallah | Harun amir al-mu'minin*

WEIGHT: 4.06g

REFERENCES: Lowick 366; Bernardi 58b

CONDITION: *Fine to good fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £4,000-6,000

NOTE: Harun al-Rashid was the first caliph to place his name on the gold coinage.



41

**ABBASID, TEMP. AL-MAMUN (196-218)**

**Dinar, no mint name (San'a) 203h**

OBVERSE: In field: *Muhammad*

WEIGHT: 3.80g

REFERENCES: Lowick 167; Bernardi 112

CONDITION: *Lightly clipped, otherwise good very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



42

**ABBASID, AL-MU'TASIM (218-227h)**

**Dinar, Dimashq 223h**

WEIGHT: 4.16g

REFERENCES: Bernardi 151Ge = Artuk 314

CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £3,000-4,000

NOTE: This is the earliest Abbasid dinar to bear the mint-name of Damascus.



43  
**ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)**  
**Dinar, al-Ahwaz 263h**

OBVERSE: citing *al-Muwaffaq billah*  
 WEIGHT: 4.21g  
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 177Nd (citing two examples)  
 CONDITION: *Almost very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



44  
**ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)**  
**Dinar, al-Muhammadiya 282h**

WEIGHT: 4.13g  
 REFERENCES: Miles, *Rayy* -; Bernardi 282Mh (citing two examples)  
 CONDITION: *Good fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



45  
**ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)**  
**Donative dirham, no mint-name, 280h**

OBVERSE: In margin: *la ilaha illa Allah Muhammad rasul Allah*  
 In field: *Lillah | al-Mu'tadid | billah*  
 REVERSE: In margin: standard date legend  
 In field: *Amir | al-mu' - | minin*  
 WEIGHT: 2.97g  
 REFERENCES: Ilisch D III 6  
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and toned, an attractive example*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



46  
**ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)**  
**Dinar, Filistin 295h**

WEIGHT 3.86g  
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 226Gn  
 CONDITION: *Very fine or better and evenly struck, rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000



47

**ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)**

**Dinar, Hims 307h**

WEIGHT: 3.17g  
 REFERENCE: cf Bernardi 242Gd (a single example dated 310h)  
 CONDITION: *Very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £6,000-8,000

NOTE: Bernardi records only one dinar of Hims for al-Muqtadir's reign.



48

**ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)**

**Dinar, al-Rafiq 315h**

WEIGHT: 4.90g  
 REFERENCE: cf Bernardi 242Hn (date not listed)  
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and extremely rare, the date apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000



49

**ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)**

**Dinar, al-Karaj 307h**

WEIGHT: 4.05g  
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 242Jf (citing a single example)  
 CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



50

**ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)**

**Dinar, Filastin 308h**

WEIGHT: 4.05g  
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 242Gn (citing three examples)  
 CONDITION: *Very fine, rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



51

**ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)**

**Donative dinar, Madinat al-Salam 302h**

WEIGHT: 3.93g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 242Jh (two examples cited); Ilisch DI 16 = Qatar I, 1328, *same dies*

CONDITION: *Some weak striking but almost extremely fine, very rare*

ESTIMATE: £4,000-6,000



52

**ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)**

**Donative dinar, Madinat al-Salam 310h**

WEIGHT: 4.17g

REFERENCE: cf Bernardi 242Jh (this date unlisted as a donative type with broad margins); cf Ilisch DI 21 for a donative silver dirham of this date

CONDITION: *Almost extremely fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £4,000-6,000



53

**ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)**

**Dinar, al-Masisa 305h**

WEIGHT: 3.10g

REFERENCE: cf Bernardi 242Fd (citing two examples dated 296h and 299h)

CONDITION: *Some marginal weakness, slightly crimped flan, otherwise very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £7,000-9,000



Lot 55





54

**ABBASID, AL-RADI (322-329h)**

**Donative dinar, no mint-name, 325h**

OBVERSE: In margin: *la ilaha illa Allah Muhammad rasul Allah*  
 In field: *Lillah | al-Radi | billah*  
 REVERSE: In margin: standard date legend  
 In field: *Amir | al-mu' - | minin*  
 WEIGHT: 4.11g  
 REFERENCES: cf Peus auction 371, lot 811; cf Bernardi 291; cf Ilisch D III 22 (in silver, probably from the same dies)  
 CONDITION: *Extremely fine with some lustre and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £7,000-10,000

NOTE: This beautiful donative appears to have been struck from the same dies as a silver example (Ilisch D III 22 = Artuk 489, a single specimen in Istanbul). The otherwise standard date legend in the reverse margin does not specify the denomination and so the dies would have been equally appropriate for striking donatives in gold or silver.

See also illustration on back cover.



55

**ABBASID, AL-MUTTAQI (329-333h)**

**Donative dinar, Madinat al-Salam 329h**

OBVERSE: In field, in fourth and fifth lines: *Abu'l-Husayn Bajkam | mawla amir al-mu'minin*  
 WEIGHT: 4.26g  
 REFERENCE: cf Bernardi 309Jh (standard type without broad margins)  
 CONDITION: *Extremely fine and of the highest rarity, apparently unpublished as a donative*

ESTIMATE: £6,000-8,000

NOTE: Apparently only the second recorded donative dinar for the caliph al-Muttaqi (the other being a coin of al-Basra 330h sold in these rooms, May 2005, lot 581)



56

**ABBASID, AL-MUSTA'SIM (640-656h)**

**Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 642h**

WEIGHT: 7.27g  
 REFERENCE: BMC I, 505  
 CONDITION: *Extremely fine, an excellent and well-centred striking for the issue*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



57

**UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, 'ABD AL-RAHMAN III (300-350h)**  
**Dinar, al-Andalus 333h**

WEIGHT: 4.16g  
 REFERENCE: Miles, *CUS* 221a  
 CONDITION: *Minor scuffs and marks, almost extremely fine and rare*  
 ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200



58

**UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, 'ABD AL-RAHMAN III (300-350h)**  
**Dinar, al-Andalus 334h**

REVERSE: In field: annulet above  
 WEIGHT: 4.22g  
 REFERENCE: Miles, *CUS* 222a var.  
 CONDITION: *Light double-striking on obverse, good very fine and rare*  
 ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200



59

**UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, 'ABD AL-RAHMAN III (300-350h)**  
**Dinar, al-Andalus 334h**

OBVERSE: Outer margin: Qur'an iii, 3-4 (ending with 'He helps whom He will').  
 Inner margin: mint and date  
 In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Imam al-nasir | li-din Allah*  
 REVERSE: In margin: Qur'an ix, 33  
 In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul Allah | 'Abd al-Rahman | Amir al-Mu'minin | Muhammad*  
 WEIGHT: 4.06g  
 REFERENCE: Miles, *CUS* -; Ibrahim p.37, 3, *same dies*  
 CONDITION: *Light deposit, good fine to very fine and excessively rare*  
 ESTIMATE: £3,000-4,000

NOTE: This appears to be the only dinar of the Spanish Umayyads to follow Abbasid types, with the double margin on the obverse and *Muhammad rasul Allah* in the reverse field.



60

**UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, AL-HAKAM II (350-366h)**

**Dinar, Madinat al-Zahra 357h**

WEIGHT: 3.82g

REFERENCE: cf Miles, *CUS* 250c (incuse cinquefoil instead of quatrefoil at top of obverse field)

CONDITION: *Very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



61

**UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, AL-HAKAM II (350-366h)**

**Dinar, Madinat al-Zahra 358h**

WEIGHT: 3.93g

REFERENCE: Miles, *CUS* 251b

CONDITION: *Good very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



62

**UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, AL-HAKAM II (350-366h)**

**Dinar, Madinat al-Zahra 361h**

OBVERSE: In field: annulet above and below

REVERSE: In field: annulet above, *Nasr* below

WEIGHT: 4.01g

REFERENCE: cf Miles, *CUS* 254 d-e

CONDITION: *Very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



63

**UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, AL-HAKAM II (350-366h)**

**Dinar, Madinat al-Zahra 364h**

WEIGHT: 3.49g

REFERENCE: Miles, *CUS* 257a

CONDITION: *Very fine or better*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



64

**UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, SULAYMAN, FIRST REIGN (400h)**

**Dinar, Madinat al-Zahra 400h**

WEIGHT: 4.43g

REFERENCE: cf Miles, *CUS* 343a (different ornament on obverse)

CONDITION: *Good very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-2,500



65

**UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, HISHAM II, SECOND REIGN (400-403h)**

**Dinar, Sijilmasa 402h**

REVERSE: In field: *al-Imam Hisham | Amir al-Mu'minin | al-Mu'ayyad billah | Amir (?)*

WEIGHT: 3.90g

REFERENCE: cf Miles, *CUS* 353

CONDITION: *A coarse striking on an irregular flan, good fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



66

**SPAIN, CASTILLE, ENRIQUE I (AD 1214-1217)**

**Dobla, Tulaitula (Toledo), year 1255 Safar = AD 1217**

WEIGHT: 3.82g

REFERENCE: Cy 1095

CONDITION: *Good very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200



67

**SULAYMANID, IBRAHIM B. MUHAMMAD (fl. 256-258h)**

**Dirham, Madinat Ibrahim b. Muhammad (Suq Ibrahim) 256h**

REVERSE: In field: name of ruler above and below *Muhammad rasul Allah*

WEIGHT: 2.87g

REFERENCE: Album B434 RRR

CONDITION: *Some weakness on both sides caused by 'ghosting', very fine or better and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



68

**FATIMID, AL-MAHDI (297-322h)**

**Dinar, al-Qayrawan 301h**

WEIGHT: 4.03g  
 REFERENCE: Nicol 27  
 CONDITION: *Good very fine or better, rare thus*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



69

**FATIMID, AL-MAHDI (297-322h)**

**Dinar, al-Qayrawan 305h**

WEIGHT: 4.06g  
 REFERENCE: Nicol 33  
 CONDITION: *Evenly struck with fully legible margins, very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



70

**FATIMID, AL-MAHDI (297-322h)**

**Dinar, al-Mahdiya 310h**

OBVERSE: In field: two pellets to right  
 REVERSE: In margin: *sanat* apparently repeated in date formula  
 WEIGHT: 4.19g  
 REFERENCE: cf Nicol 55  
 CONDITION: *Very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500

NOTE: The second '*sanat*' in the mint/date formula is conceivably intended as a number rather than dittography from the die-engraver but, if so, it is difficult to interpret. *Ithnayn*, for '2', might be the least unlikely possibility, but as Nicol lists no dinars of al-Mahdiya 312h this cannot easily be checked.



71

**FATIMID, AL-MAHDI (297-322h)**  
**Dinar, al-Muhammadiya 322h**

WEIGHT: 3.99g  
 REFERENCE: cf Nicol 51 [321h]  
 CONDITION: *Fair to fine, extremely rare and apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000

NOTE: Not to be confused with the common 'Abbasid and Samanid mint of Rayy which was also often called al-Muhammadiya on the coinage. The Fatimid mint of al-Muhammadiya was located in the town of al-Masilah, in present-day Algeria.



72

**FATIMID, AL-MAHDI (297-322h)**  
**Dinar, without mint name, 314h**

WEIGHT: 4.11g  
 REFERENCE: cf Nicol 95 [dated 315h]  
 CONDITION: *Very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200

NOTE: The unit and decade of the date are rather coarsely engraved.



73

**FATIMID, AL-MAHDI (297-322h)**  
**Dinar, without mint name, 320h**

WEIGHT: 4.14g  
 REFERENCE: cf Nicol 102 [dated 321h]  
 CONDITION: *Very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-2,500

NOTE: Apparently an unpublished date for the mintless dinars of al-Mahdi.



74

**FATIMID, AL-MAHDI (297-322h)**

**Dinar, without mint name, 326h (sic)**

WEIGHT: 3.96g

REFERENCE: Nicol –

CONDITION: *Very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,500

NOTE: It is very difficult to read the date on this coin as anything other than *sitt wa ‘ashrin wa thalatha mi’at*, even though this date – 326h – is four years after al-Mahdi’s death. It might be a die-engraver’s error (possibly for 322h), but posthumous dinars are known for other Fatimid rulers and this may represent an early instance of the same practice.



75

**FATIMID, AL-MANSUR (334-341h)**

**Dinar, al-Mansuriya 338h**

WEIGHT: 4.17g

REFERENCE: Nicol 215

CONDITION: *Good very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



76

**FATIMID, AL-MANSUR (334-341h)**

**Dinar, al-Mahdiya 336h, month of Shawwal**

OBVERSE: In margin: *bismillah...al-dinar bi'l-Mahdiya shahr Shawwal min sanat...*

WEIGHT: 4.16g

REFERENCE: Nicol 226, *this piece cited* (weight given as 4.2g)

CONDITION: *Good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000



77

**FATIMID, AL-MU'IZZ (341-366h)**  
**Dinar, no mint name [Sijilmasa] 366h**

WEIGHT: 3.91g  
 REFERENCE: cf Nicol 287 [365h]  
 CONDITION: *A typically crude striking, good very fine and apparently an unpublished date for the type*  
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



78

**FATIMID, AL-'AZIZ (366-387h)**  
**Dirham, al-Qahira al-Mahrusa 383h**

WEIGHT: 1.40g  
 REFERENCE: Nicol 697, *this coin cited*  
 CONDITION: *Flan crack, good fine and excessively rare*  
 ESTIMATE: £4,000-6,000

NOTE: A handful of gold and silver coins were struck with this mint-name, meaning 'Cairo the Protected', in 383h and 384h. Nicol suggests that they may have been struck 'in the new palace complex of Cairo, rather than in the old city mint of al-Fustat, which had the designation of Misr on coins.' It has sometimes been suggested that these coins may have been issued to mark the completion of the new palace itself or of the city walls, but while this is an attractive idea there is nothing in the written sources to support it.



79

**FATIMID, AL-ZAHIR (411-427h)**  
**Fals, Siqiliya 425h**

OBVERSE: Outer margin: *bismillah duriba hadha al-fils bi-Siqiliya sanat khams wa 'ashrin wa arba' mi'at*  
 Inner margin: *'Abd Allah wa walihi 'Ali Abu'l-Hasan al-Imam*  
 Centre: *al-Zahir li-I'zaz Din | Allah Amir al-Mu'minin*  
 REVERSE: Outer margin: *Qur'an ix, 33*  
 Inner margin: *la ilaha illa Allah wahdah la sharik lahu*  
 Centre: *Muhammad rasul Allah | 'Ali wali Allah*  
 WEIGHT: 0.87g  
 CONDITION: *Fine to good fine with clear mint and date, apparently unpublished and of the highest rarity*  
 ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000

NOTE: Apparently the first published example of a Fatimid copper fals, with the denomination clearly legible in the marginal inscription.

## AN EXCEPTIONAL GROUP OF FATIMID AND MIRDASID DINARS FROM HALAB (ALEPPO)

The group of coins offered here includes several unpublished types and chronicles the turbulent history of the important Syrian city of Halab (Aleppo) in the first decades of the 5th century Hijri. During this period the city and hinterland of Aleppo formed an important buffer between the Byzantine empire and the wider Islamic world.

The founder of the Mirdasid dynasty was Asad al-dawla Salih b. Mirdas, who captured Halab from its pro-Fatimid governors in 415h. With two other local leaders, Hassan b. Mufarraǵ and Sinan b. Sulayman, Salih partitioned Syria into three areas, whereby Hassan took Palestine, Sinan held Damascus, and Salih himself remained in control of Halab. The Fatimid ruler al-Zahir sent an army to recapture Syria under the command of Anushtegin al-Duzbari, only to be defeated by the three allies near Ascalon. Soon afterwards, however, Sinan died, and in 420h Anushtegin won a convincing victory over Hasan and Salih at al-Uqhuwana near the Sea of Galilee. Salih himself was killed in the battle.

Salih was succeeded jointly by his two sons, Shibl al-dawla Nasr and Mu'izz al-dawla Thimal, although Shibl al-dawla seems to have quickly come to prominence. A Byzantine army was defeated in 421h, but Shibl evidently accepted Byzantine suzerainty in the following year. He later changed allegiance once again, this time to the Fatimid cause, but was eventually defeated and killed by Anushtegin, now governor of Damascus, in 429h. Anushtegin himself died in 433h.

Shibl al-dawla's brother, Mu'izz al-dawla, was able to recover Halab after the death of Anushtegin and governed it for some years as a vassal of both the Fatimids and Byzantines, before eventually conceding the city to the Fatimids in 449h



80

**MIRDASID, ASAD AL-DAWLA SALIH (414-420h)**

**Dinar, Halab 417h**

OBVERSE: Outer margin: mint and date  
Middle margin: *al-amir Asad al-dawla wa mufakhkhamuha wa nasehuha Abu 'Ali Salih ibn Mirdas*  
Inner margin: *la ilaha ila Allah Muhammad rasul Allah*

REVERSE: Outer margin: Qur'an ix, 33  
Middle margin: *al-amir Abu 'Ulwān Thamal ibn al-amir Asad al-dawla*  
Inner margin: *al-Zahir li-I'zaz Din Allah Amir al-Mu'minin*

WEIGHT: 3.53g

REFERENCE: Nicol -; cf Stephen Album Auction 13, 18 May 2012, lot 565 ('unique')

CONDITION: *A slightly coarse striking, very fine to good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £6,000-8,000



81

**MIRDASID, ASAD AL-DAWLA SALIH (414-420h)**

**Dinar, Halab 420h**

OBVERSE: Outer margin: mint and date  
Middle margin: *al-amir Asad al-dawla wa mufakhkhamuha wa nasehuha Abu 'Ali Salih ibn Mirdas*  
Inner margin: *la ilaha ila Allah Muhammad rasul Allah*

REVERSE: Outer margin: Qur'an ix, 33  
Middle margin: *al-amir Abu 'Ulwān Thamal ibn al-amir Asad al-dawla*  
Inner margin: *al-Zahir li-I'zaz Din Allah Amir al-Mu'minin*  
In centre: *Allah*

WEIGHT: 4.32g

REFERENCE: Nicol 1396, citing a single example from the same reverse die

CONDITION: *Very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £8,000-12,000



82

**MIRDASID, SHIBL AL-DAWLA (420-429h)**

**Dinar, Halab 427h**

OBVERSE: Outer margin: mint and date  
Inner margin: *al-Imam 'Abdallah wa walihi 'Ali Abu'l-Hasan*  
In centre: *al-amir al-mu'ayyad | Abu [...] Muhammad*

REVERSE: Outer margin: Qur'an ix, 33  
Inner margin: *La ilaha illa Allah Muhammad rasul Allah 'Ali wali Allah*  
In centre: *al-amir al-mu'ayyad | Shibl al-dawla*

WEIGHT: 3.74g

REFERENCE: Nicol -; cf Album N767 RRR (citing al-Mustansir)

CONDITION: *Good very fine and apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £8,000-12,000



83

**MIRDASID, SHIBL AL-DAWLA (420-429h)**

**Dinar, Halab 427h**

OBVERSE: Outer margin: mint and date  
Inner margin: *'Abdallah...al-Zahir li-I'zaz Din Amir al-Mu'minin*  
In centre: *al-amir al-mu'ayyad | Shibl al-dawla*

REVERSE: Outer margin: Qur'an ix, 33  
Inner margin: *La ilaha illa Allah Muhammad rasul Allah 'Ali wali Allah*  
In centre: *al-amir al-mu'ayyad | Abu [...] Muhammad*

WEIGHT: 3.44g

CONDITION: *Crude, very fine or better and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £6,000-8,000



84

**MIRDASID, SHIBL AL-DAWLA (420-429h)**

**Dinar, Halab 429h**

OBVERSE: Outer margin: mint and date  
Inner margin: *al-Amir al-mu'ayyad Muhammad al-Amir Nasr al-Imam (?)*  
In centre: *Shams al-dawla*

REVERSE: Outer margin: *Lillah al-Imam Ma'add Abu Tamim al-Mustansir billah Amir al-Mu'minin*  
Inner margin: *La ilaha illa Allah Muhammad rasul Allah 'Ali wali Allah*  
In centre: *Dhu'l-Ghaznawatayn*

WEIGHT: 4.26g

REFERENCE: cf Nicol 1704 = Kazan 730

CONDITION: *Good very fine or better, very rare*

ESTIMATE: £6,000-8,000



85

**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**

**Dinar, Halab 432h**

OBVERSE: Margin: mint and date (beginning *bismillah al-rahman al-rahim duriba...*)  
In centre: *al-Imam Ma'add | Abu Tamim al-Mustansir | billah Amir al-Mu'minin | al-Muzaffar*

REVERSE: Margin: Qur'an ix, 33  
In centre: *la ilaha illa Allah | wahdah la sharik lahu | Muhammad rasul Allah | 'Ali wali Allah*

WEIGHT: 4.17g

REFERENCE: Nicol 1705

CONDITION: *Good very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000



86

**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**

**Dinar, Halab 433h**

OBVERSE: Outer margin: mint and date  
Inner margin: *'Izz (?) al-Muzaffar*  
In centre: *al-Imam | Ma'add Abu Tamim | al-Mustansir billah | Amir al-Mu'minin*

REVERSE: Outer margin: Qur'an ix, 33  
Inner margin: *'Izz (?) al-Muzaffar*  
In centre: *la ilaha illa Allah | wahdah la sharik lahu | Muhammad rasul Allah | 'Ali wali Allah*

WEIGHT: 4.17g

CONDITION: *Good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £4,000-6,000



87

**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**

**Dinar, Halab 433h**

OBVERSE: Outer margin: mint and date (unit of date slightly defective and lacking one 'tooth')  
Inner margin: *'Izz (?) al-Muzaffar*  
In centre: *al-Imam | Ma'add Abu Tamim | al-Mustansir billah | Amir al-Mu'minin*

REVERSE: Outer margin: Qur'an ix, 33  
Inner margin: *'Izz (?) al-Muzaffar*  
In centre: *la ilaha illa Allah | wahdah la sharik lahu | Muhammad rasul Allah | 'Ali wali Allah*

WEIGHT: 4.12g

CONDITION: *Almost extremely fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £4,000-6,000

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88

**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**

**Dinar, Halab 446h**

WEIGHT: 3.33g

REFERENCE: Nicol 1710, *this coin cited*

CONDITION: *Some marginal weakness, very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

PROVENANCE: Morton and Eden auction 3, 20 May 2003, lot 294



89

**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**

**Dinar, Dimashq 435h**

WEIGHT: 3.89g

REFERENCE: Nicol 1723

CONDITION: *Faint marks on edge, good fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



90

**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**

**Dinar, Dimashq 441h**

WEIGHT: 3.54g

REFERENCE: Nicol 1727

CONDITION: *Clipped, very fine and scarce*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



91

**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**

**Dinar, Zabid 447h**

OBVERSE: In centre: *al-Imam Ma'add | Abu Tamim*

REVERSE: In centre: *al-Mustansir | billah Amir al-mu' - | minin*

WEIGHT: 2.03g

REFERENCE: Nicol 1738a

CONDITION: *Light scratches on obverse, almost very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000

NOTE: Nicol cites a single example of this variety.



92

**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**

**Dinar, Sabra 440h**

OBVERSE: In margin: uncertain letter ('*ayn*?) above century of date

WEIGHT: 4.11g

REFERENCE: Nicol 1750

CONDITION: *Struck from rusty dies, very fine to good very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



93

**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**

**Dinar, Tabariya 432h**

OBVERSE: In margin: mint and date

REVERSE: In margin: Qur'an ix, 33

WEIGHT: 4.01g

REFERENCE: Nicol 1972

CONDITION: *Scattered marks, some weakness in margins, fine to good fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

NOTE: Two examples of this mint and date, and only one of this variety, cited by Nicol.



94

**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**

**Dinar, 'Akka 463h**

WEIGHT: 3.42g

REFERENCE: Nicol 2024

CONDITION: *Good very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



95  
**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**  
**Dinar, 'Akka 464h**

WEIGHT: 3.83g  
 REFERENCE: Nicol 2025  
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and rare*  
 ESTIMATE: £2,000-2,500



96  
**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**  
**Dinar, Filastin 445h**

WEIGHT: 4.08g  
 REFERENCE: Nicol 2073  
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and rare*  
 ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200



97  
**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**  
**Dinar, Filastin 448h**

LEGENDS: as Nicol type W1  
 WEIGHT: 4.14g  
 REFERENCE: cf Nicol 2075 [449h]  
 CONDITION: *Minor marks, very fine to good very fine and extremely rare, apparently unpublished*  
 ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000



98  
**FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**  
**Dinar, Filastin 472h**

LEGENDS: as Nicol type W1  
 WEIGHT: 3.94g  
 CONDITION: *Struck from coarsely-engraved dies, otherwise good very fine and extremely rare, apparently unpublished*  
 ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000



99

**FATIMID, AL-BASASIRI / AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)**

**Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 451h, month of al-Muharram**

OBVERSE: In field: letter *‘ayn* after name *Ma‘add*  
 WEIGHT: 4.98g  
 REFERENCE: Nicol 2094; Jafar F.MS.451d, *same dies*  
 CONDITION: *Struck from a worn reverse die, otherwise extremely fine with some lustre, rare*

ESTIMATE: £6,000-8,000

NOTE: This famous issue of Fatimid dinars from Baghdad dates from a period of twelve months during 450-451h when the city was briefly held by the Fatimid partisan Arslan al-Basasiri. He was a Turkish general who had enjoyed status and prestige when Baghdad and the Abbasid caliph were under Buwayhid protection. With the fall of the Buwayhids and the arrival of the Great Seljuqs under Tughril Beg, al-Basasiri began to fear for his own position and started making overtures to the Fatimids. One may question how deeply al-Basasiri, the former protector of the Sunni caliph, was now attached to the Fatimid cause, but he was given money and arms to support his operations against the Seljuqs.

At this period the authority of the Abbasid caliph, al-Qa'im, was limited to religious affairs, with political and military matters firmly in the hands of the Great Seljuq sultan, Tughril Beg. In 450h, however, he was campaigning elsewhere in his domains and had taken his entire army with him. Al-Basasiri was therefore able to enter Baghdad with only a small force. Whether Tughril Beg had misjudged the situation, or whether he had deliberately exposed the city in this way for his own political reasons, the khutba in Baghdad, capital of the Sunni caliphs, was now being read in the name of the Fatimid al-Mustansir. Al-Basasiri even forced al-Qa'im to sign a declaration waiving the rights of the Abbasids to the caliphate as long as the Fatimid line endured.

As well as the khutba al-Basasiri also used the coinage to assert al-Mustansir's authority in Baghdad. Jafar (op. cit.) reports a contemporary belief that al-Basasiri had been supplied with these dinars in advance rather than actually striking them in Baghdad while the city and mint were under his control. Rather than the characteristic Fatimid 'bull's-eye' types with several concentric rings of legends, al-Basasiri's dinars follow a design not otherwise being currently issued in the Fatimid lands but which would have been closer to other types then circulating in Baghdad.

In spite of his successes al-Basasiri seems to have received surprisingly little support from the Fatimids once he had taken control of Baghdad. It may be that they had never intended him to remain there indefinitely: Tughril Beg and his powerful army would certainly return to Baghdad eventually, while there are reports of al-Basasiri antagonizing the citizens and even committing atrocities against them. The Fatimids may have been content with the propaganda value of a symbolic victory, not to mention the document al-Qa'im signed abrogating his caliphal rights. Al-Basasiri also tried unsuccessfully to capture the caliphal heir, who would have been a real prize for the Fatimids and of great value in future negotiations.



100

**FATIMID, AL-MUSTA'LI (487-495h)**

**Dinar, al-Iskandariya 493h**

WEIGHT: 4.15g  
 REFERENCE: Nicol 2400  
 CONDITION: *Reverse struck a little off-centre, otherwise extremely fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



101

**FATIMID, AL-MUNTAZAR (524-526h)**

**Dinar, Misr 525h**

OBVERSE: Outer margin: mint and date  
Inner margin: *Abu'l-Qasim al-Muntazar bi-amr Allah Amir al-Mu'minin*  
In centre: *al-Imam | Muhammad*

REVERSE: Outer margin: Qur'an ix, 33  
Inner margin: *La ilaha illa Allah Muhammad rasul Allah 'Ali wali Allah*  
In centre: *'Al | ghaya*

WEIGHT: 4.19g

REFERENCE: Nicol 2590

CONDITION: *Small test-cut on edge, otherwise good fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £4,000-6,000

NOTE: After the assassination of al-Amir in 524h, two army commanders appointed the future caliph al-Hafiz to govern the Fatimid Empire although they did not give him the title of caliph at the time. He was quickly captured and imprisoned by Kutayfat, son of a vizier murdered under al-Amir, who overthrew the military leadership and attempted to seize power. Having no dynastic link to the line of Fatimid imams, Kutayfat claimed to be acting as regent for a child known as al-Tayyib, who was purportedly the infant son of al-Amir by a concubine. There is some doubt as to whether al-Tayyib ever existed, but Kutayfat duly struck coins naming him with the title al-Muntazar, meaning 'the expected one'.

Kutayfat was overthrown in 526h and al-Hafiz duly became caliph, surviving an attempted coup later that year to reign for a further eighteen years.



102

**FATIMID, AL-FA'IZ (549-555h)**

**Dinar, Misr 551h**

WEIGHT: 4.26g

REFERENCE: Nicol 2675

CONDITION: *Slightly crimped, faint edge marks, almost extremely fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



103

**FATIMID, AL-‘ADID (555-567h)**

**Dinar, Misr 563h**

WEIGHT: 4.30g

REFERENCE: Nicol 2698

CONDITION: *Some light die rust, extremely fine and rare*

ESTIMATE £1,200-1,500



104

**FATIMID, AL-‘ADID (555-567h)**

**Dinar, al-Mu‘izziya al-Qahira 564h**

WEIGHT: 4.25g

REFERENCE: Nicol 2711

CONDITION: *About uncirculated with much lustre, rare thus*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



105

**FATIMID, AL-‘ADID (555-567h)**

**Dinar, al-Mu‘izziya al-Qahira 566h**

WEIGHT: 3.15g

REFERENCE: Nicol 2713

CONDITION: *Weak patches in margins on both sides, otherwise good very fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

NOTE: The last date for the Fatimid gold coinage.



106

**BAHRI MAMLUK, AYBAK (648-655h)**

**Dinar, al-Qahira 654h**

WEIGHT: 4.91g  
 REFERENCE: Balog 6 [citing a single specimen in the British Museum]  
 CONDITION: *Good very fine, rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000



107

**BAHRI MAMLUK, 'ALI (655-657h)**

**Dinar, al-Qahira 657h**

WEIGHT: 5.70g  
 REFERENCE: Balog 18  
 CONDITION: *Minor marginal weakness, otherwise extremely fine with some lustre, rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



108

**BAHRI MAMLUK, KUJUK (742h)**

**Dinar, Dimashq 742h**

WEIGHT: 6.66g  
 REFERENCE: Balog -; Album 927 RRR  
 CONDITION: *Weak striking and also with scratches at top of obverse, otherwise good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000



109

**BURJI MAMLUK, SHAYKH (815-824h)**  
**Gold Mithqal, al-Qahira 821h**

OBVERSE: In centre: *mithqal*  
 In margin: ruler's name and titles, mint and date  
 WEIGHT: 4.25g  
 REFERENCE: Balog 679 (citing one example)  
 CONDITION: *Some weak striking but extremely fine with some lustre, extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500

NOTE: This very rare issue is the legacy of a plan by Shaykh to revive the weight standard of the classical gold dinar. Balog describes this as '*a futile attempt. Contemporary with the emission of mithqal-type dinars, the Alexandria mint issued large, Bahri-style coins (ingots) of undetermined weight, just as if the sultan could not decide on the measures to be taken to meet the economic crisis.*'



110

**QARMATID, ALPTEKIN ABU MANSUR AL-MU'IZZI (fl. 364-367h)**  
**Dinar, Dimashq 365h**

OBVERSE: In field, last two lines: *al-sadat | al-ra'is*  
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad rasul Allah | Sali Allah 'alayhi | wa 'ala-'llah | al-Ta'i lillah | al-sayyid al-ra'is*  
 WEIGHT: 4.35g  
 REFERENCE: Vardanyan 23  
 CONDITION: *Reverse struck from a worn die and also with some double-striking, very fine/good fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000



111

**BUWAYHIDS IN 'UMAN, BAHA AL-DAWLA (379-403h)**  
**Dinar, 'Uman 394h**

WEIGHT: 5.01g  
 REFERENCE: Treadwell Um394G  
 CONDITION: *Small patch of staining on obverse, struck from rusty dies, very fine to good very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



112

**SELJUQ OF RUM, GHIYATH AL-DIN KAYKHUSRAW II (634-644h)**

**Dinar, Dar al-Mulk Qunya 642h**

OBVERSE: In margin: citing the Abbasid caliph *al-Musta'sim billah*  
 REVERSE: In field: naming the Sultan as *Ghiyath al-dunya wa'l-din Kaykhusraw bin Kayqubad*  
 WEIGHT: 4.56g  
 REFERENCE: Broome 249  
 CONDITION: *Extremely fine, very slightly weak in centres*

ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200



113

**SELJUQ OF RUM, 'IZZ AL-DIN KAYKA'US (644-647h)**

**Dinar, Dar al-Mulk Qunya 644h**

OBVERSE: In margin: citing the Abbasid caliph *al-Musta'sim billah*  
 REVERSE: In field: naming the Sultan as *'Izz al-dunya wa'l-din Abu'l-Fath Kaykawus bin Kaykhusraw*  
 WEIGHT: 4.48g  
 REFERENCES: Broome 309; Artuk 1121  
 CONDITION: *Very slight weakness in margin, otherwise extremely fine and lustrous*

ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200

NOTE: The mint-name and last two digits of the date are slightly abbreviated on this type



114

**SELJUQ OF RUM, THE THREE BROTHERS (647-657h)**

**Dinar, Qunya 648h**

OBVERSE: naming the Abbasid caliph *al-Musta'sim billah*, mint and date below  
 REVERSE: naming the three brothers as *'Izz al-dunya wa'l-din Kayka'us wa Rukn al-dunya wa'l-din Qilij Arslan wa 'Ala al-dunya wa'l-din Kayqubad bin (sic) Kaykhusraw*  
 WEIGHT: 4.54g  
 REFERENCE: Tevhid 1286  
 CONDITION: *Very slight peripheral weakness but virtually as issued and brilliant*

ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200



115

**OTTOMAN, MEHMED II (SECOND REIGN, 855-886h)**

**Sultani, Qustantaniya 883h**

WEIGHT: 3.53g  
REFERENCE: Pere 80  
CONDITION: *About extremely fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



116

**OTTOMAN, BAYEZID II (886-918h)**

**Sultani, Qustantaniya 886h**

OBVERSE: *Daribün nadri...*  
WEIGHT: 3.3g  
REFERENCE: Pere 101  
CONDITION: *Light deposit, good very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



117

**OTTOMAN, SELIM I (918-926h)**

**Sultani, Qustantaniya 918h**

WEIGHT: 3.43g  
REFERENCE: Pere 116  
CONDITION: *Evenly struck, almost very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



118

**OTTOMAN, SELIM I (918-926h)**

**Sultani, Serez 918h**

OBVERSE: *Sultan Selim Shah bin Bayezid Khan...*  
WEIGHT: 3.48g  
REFERENCE: Pere 122  
CONDITION: *Very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



119

**OTTOMAN, SÜLEYMAN I (926-974h)**

**Sultani, Zabid 947h**

WEIGHT: 3.47g

REFERENCE: cf Pere 194 [dated 959h]

CONDITION: *Very light marks on obverse, almost extremely fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



120

**OTTOMAN, AHMED I (1012-1026h)**

**Sultani, Jaza'ir 1012h**

WEIGHT: 3.43g

REFERENCE: Pere 348

CONDITION: *Edge lightly smoothed, scattered marks, otherwise good very fine and scarce thus*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



121

**OTTOMAN, MUSTAFA I, SECOND REIGN (1031-1032h)**

**Sultani, Misr 1031h**

WEIGHT: 3.46g

REFERENCE: Pere 379

CONDITION: *Wavy flan, good very fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £3,000-4,000



122

**OTTOMAN, MAHMUD I (1143-1168h)**  
**Bes Altinlik (5 altin), Islambol 1143h**

REVERSE: Mint mark *mir* in cartouche  
 WEIGHT: 20.07g  
 DIAMETER: 47.8mm  
 REFERENCE: Pere 543 *var.*  
 CONDITION: *Small punch-mark in field, otherwise good very fine and with no visible traces of mounting, very rare thus*

ESTIMATE: £3,000-4,000

NOTE: Struck from the same dies as the example in the Turath Collection.



123

**OTTOMAN, MAHMUD I**  
**Sultani, Cezayir (Jaza'ir) 1166h**

WEIGHT: 3.40g  
 REFERENCE: Pere 540  
 CONDITION: *Tiny piercing, otherwise good very fine and struck on a broad flan, rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



124

**OTTOMAN, OSMAN III (1168-1171h)**  
**Üç Findik (3 findik), Islambol 1168h**

REVERSE: Mint mark *jim* in cartouche  
 WEIGHT: 9.50g  
 REFERENCE: Pere 590  
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and with no visible traces of mounting, very rare thus*

ESTIMATE: £3,000-4,000



125

**OTTOMAN, ABDÜL HAMID II (1293-1327h)**

**Large Gold Medal for the Visit of Kaiser Wilhelm II to Constantinople, 1889**

- OBVERSE:** Tughra above trophy of arms  
In margin: *Mülâkati Sultan Abdülhamid hani sâni bi Imparatori Almanyâ Wilhelm sâni der Kostantiniye fi 7 Re sene 1307*
- REVERSE:** German Imperial eagle  
In double margin: ZUR ERINNERUNG AN DEN BESUCH SEINER MAJESTÄT DES DEUTSCHEN KAISERS WILHELM II BEI SEINER MAJESTÄT DEM KAISER DER OSMANEN ABDUL-HAMID KHAN II IN CONSTANTINOPEL 2 NOVEMBER 1889
- DIAMETER:** 65mm
- WEIGHT:** 190.63g
- REFERENCES:** Erüreten p.260; cf Pere 1114 (small size)
- CONDITION:** *Minor marks on reverse and edge, extremely fine and extremely rare*
- ESTIMATE:** £8,000-10,000

**NOTE:** This was the first of three state visits that Kaiser Wilhelm II paid to Constantinople, and was celebrated with great ostentation and ceremony. Although the Kaiser himself clearly enjoyed the visit immensely and was himself very popular in the city, his friendship with the Sultan was to cause considerable political difficulties, particularly with Russia.



126

**SAFFARID, 'AMR B. AL-LAYTH (265-288h)**

**Donative dirham, Madinat Zaranj 271h**

- OBVERSE:** In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | 'Amr b. al-Layth*
- REVERSE:** In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Mu 'tamid 'ala-'llah | letter sin*
- WEIGHT:** 4.13g
- REFERENCE:** Apparently unpublished as a donative; cf Vasmer 28 for a standard dirham with similar legends
- CONDITION:** *Edge damage where mount has been removed and further traces of mount on reverse, otherwise very fine and extremely rare*
- ESTIMATE:** £1,000-1,500

**NOTE:** All donative issues from this period struck by an autonomous ruler rather than the Abbasid caliph himself are extremely rare.



127

**DULAFID, AHMAD B. 'ABD AL-'AZIZ (265-280h)**

**Dinar, Isbahan 278h**

OBVERSE: In field: *kalima* in three lines; below: *al-Mu'tadid billah | Ahmad bin 'Abd al-'Aziz*  
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Mu'tamid 'ala-'llah | al-Mufawwad 'ala-'llah*  
 WEIGHT: 4.15g  
 CONDITION: *Light crease, otherwise very fine and of the highest rarity, apparently an unpublished type*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

NOTE: Bernardi lists no Dulafid dinars from Isbahan, and gives the latest date for a dinar of 'Abd al-'Aziz as 276h. This type, with the Dulafid ruler's name on the obverse and that of al-Mufawwad on the reverse, also appears to be unpublished.



128

**SAJID, AL-FATH B. AL-AFSHIN (315-317h)**

**Dinar, Ardabil 316h**

OBVERSE: In field: *kalima* in two lines; below: *Abu'l-'Abbas bin | Amir al-Mu'minin*  
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul Allah | al-Muqtadir billah | al-Fath bin al-Afshin | mawla Amir al-Mu'minin*  
 WEIGHT: 4.55g  
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 253Ka RRR (citing a single specimen of this type)  
 CONDITION: *Obverse flan crack, peripheral weakness on both sides but with little circulation wear, good very fine for issue and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



129

**SAMANID, NASR B. AHMAD (301-331h)**

**Dinar, Samarqand 301h**

WEIGHT: 4.24g  
 REFERENCE: cf Bernardi 269Qe (this date not listed)  
 CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine and extremely rare, apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500

NOTE: After the death of Ahmad b. Isma'il in 301h, the succession of the young Nasr b. Ahmad was disputed by Ishaq b. Ahmad, who briefly claimed power and struck dinars at Nishapur and Samarqand in 301h. This coin must have been struck shortly after Ishaq's defeat.

While Samanid silver dirhams from Samarqand are common, gold dinars from the mint are rare (Bernardi classifies those of Nasr b. Ahmad and his predecessor Ahmad b. Isma'il as RR).



130

**HASANWAYHID, BADR B. HASANWAYH (369-405h)**

**Dinar, Adhiwajan 402h**

- OBVERSE: In field: in third and fourth lines: *al-Qadir billah al-imam | Badr b. Hasanwayh*
- REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad rasul Allah | Baha al-dawla wa Diya | al-milla Abu Nasr | Shams al-dawla Abu | Tahir | ibriz*
- WEIGHT: 4.26g
- REFERENCE: Album 1588 RR; cf Qouchani p.59 for Hasanwayhid dirhams of this mint
- CONDITION: *Wavy flan, very fine to good very fine and very rare*
- ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500
- NOTE: This appears to be the only known Hasanwayhid dinar from this mint, which has also been read as *Ariwajan* but is clearly engraved as *Adhiwajan* on this specimen.



131

**GREAT SELJUQ, MALIKSHAH (465-485h)**

**Dinar, Sumayram 482h**

- OBVERSE: In field: *'adl | la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Muqtadi bi-amr Allah*
- REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad rasul Allah | al-sultan al-mu'azzam | Shahanshah | Mu'izz al-dawla | Rukn al-Islam | Malikshah*
- Small flowers in left and right of field
- REFERENCE: cf Spink Zurich auction 22, 17 March 1987, lot 400, *same dies*
- WEIGHT: 2.58g
- CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine, extremely rare*
- ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500
- NOTE: The very rare mint-town of Sumayram was located on the road between Isfahan and Shiraz, near the source of the Tab river.



132

**ILKHANID, GHAZAN MAHMUD (694-703h)**

**Dinar, Qays 699h**

WEIGHT: 9.13g  
 REFERENCE: cf Diler 281 (date not listed)  
 CONDITION: *Buckled flan, some surface marks, almost very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500

NOTE: This rare trilingual dinar was struck at Qays, an island in the Persian Gulf



133

**ILKHANID, MUHAMMAD KHAN (736-738h)**

**Dinar, Irbil 738h**

WEIGHT: 7.26g  
 REFERENCE: cf Diler 696 (mint not listed)  
 CONDITION: *Edge marks, scratches and scuffs on obverse, generally very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



134

**QAJAR, MUZAFFAR AL-DIN SHAH (1313-1324h)**

**Pattern 500-dinars or half-qiran, 1319h, struck from Brussels mint dies**

OBVERSE: Uniformed bust above wreath, date below  
 REVERSE: Lion and sun within wreath; *in ex.*, value  
 WEIGHT: 2.55g  
 REFERENCE: cf KM Pn28 [in silver]  
 CONDITION: *Test marks on edge, minor marks in fields, otherwise almost extremely fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500

NOTE: Apparently unpublished as a gold striking.

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(i) the catalogue description was in accordance with the generally accepted opinions of scholars and experts at the date of the sale, or the catalogue description indicated that there was a conflict of such opinions; or

(ii) the only method of establishing at the date of the sale that the item was a Counterfeit would have been by means of processes not then generally available or accepted, unreasonably expensive or impractical; or likely to have caused damage to or loss in value to the Property (in Morton & Eden Ltd.'s reasonable opinion); or

(iii) there has been no material loss in value of the Property from its value had it accorded with its catalogue description.

To claim under this Guarantee, the Buyer must:-

(i) notify Morton & Eden Ltd. in writing within one (1) month of receiving any information that causes the Buyer to question the authenticity or attribution of the Property, specifying the lot number,

date of the auction at which it was purchased and the reasons why it is believed to be Counterfeit; and

(ii) return the Property to Morton & Eden Ltd. in the same condition as at the date of sale and be able to transfer good title in the Property, free from any third party claims arising after the date of the sale.

Morton & Eden Ltd. has discretion to waive any of the above requirements. Morton & Eden Ltd. may require the Buyer to obtain at the Buyer's cost the reports of two independent and recognised experts in the relevant field and acceptable to Morton & Eden Ltd. Morton & Eden Ltd. shall not be bound by any reports produced by the Buyer, and reserves the right to seek additional expert advice at its own expense. In the event Morton & Eden Ltd. decides to rescind the sale under this Guarantee, it may refund to the Buyer the reasonable costs of up to two mutually approved independent expert reports, provided always that the costs of such reports have been approved in advance and in writing by Morton & Eden Ltd.

# MORTON & EDEN LTD

in association with Sotheby's

## ABSENTEE BID FORM

(please print clearly or type)

### Sale Title:

Important Coins of the Islamic World

### Date:

22 April 2013

### Please mail or fax to:

Morton & Eden Ltd.

Nash House

St George Street

London W1S 2FQ

Fax: +44 (0)20 7495 6325

### Important

Please bid on my behalf at the above sale for the following Lot(s) up to the hammer price(s) mentioned below. These bids are to be executed as cheaply as is permitted by other bids or reserves and in an amount up to but not exceeding the specified amount. The auctioneer may open the bidding on any lot by placing a bid on behalf of the seller. The auctioneer may further bid on behalf of the seller up to the amount of the reserve by placing responsive or consecutive bids for a lot.

I agree to be bound by Morton & Eden's Conditions of Business. If any bid is successful, I agree to pay a buyer's premium on the hammer price at the rate stated in the front of the catalogue and any VAT, or amounts in lieu of VAT, which may be due on the buyer's premium and the hammer price.

### Payment Instructions:

#### Sterling Cash

Subject to statutory limits

#### Cheque or Banker's Draft

Drawn on a recognised UK bank.

**Foreign cheques will not be accepted.**

#### Credit/Debit Card

All credit and non-UK debit card payments are subject to a surcharge of 2%.

#### Bank Transfer

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Name           |          |
| Address        |          |
| Postcode       |          |
| Telephone/Home | Business |
| Fax            | VAT No.  |
| Email          |          |
| Signed         | Date     |

|                                                                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Card type (Visa, Mastercard, Debit)                                              |                              |
| Card Number                                                                      |                              |
| Cardholder Name                                                                  |                              |
| Expiry Date                                                                      | Issue No. (debit cards only) |
| Security Code (last 3 digits on back of card)                                    |                              |
| Billing Address (if different from above)                                        |                              |
| Cardholder Signature (By signing this you are authorising payment for this sale) |                              |

If you wish Morton & Eden to ship your purchases, please tick ☐

| Lot No | Lot Description | £ Bid Price |
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